



Interpretive Internships at Zion National Park



Zion National Park has one or two summer interpretive internships available for qualified applicants. The positions will be available for 14 – 16 weeks between April and Labor Day, 2008. These internships provide undergraduate and graduate students with practical work experience to round out their formal academic training. The work experience gives students the opportunity to apply skills learned in the classroom, to explore career paths, and to develop personally and professionally. Course credit may be available by making arrangements with your academic advisor.

Duties	<p>The positions are with the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services. After training interns will conduct a full range of interpretive programs and activities for park visitors. Interns will staff the Zion Canyon Visitor Center and Zion Human History Museum information desks; research, prepare, and present guided walks, talks, and shuttle tours; offer information and orientation services in informal settings such as trails, Zion Lodge, and on the park</p>	<p>shuttle system; and carry out a variety of special projects.</p> <p>Hours of work will include early mornings, late evenings, weekends, and Holidays. Much of the work is done in an office setting, which is climate controlled. However, most interpretive programs are presented outdoors. In summer, there is no alternative to the hot desert climate to accomplish interpretive duties.</p>
Qualifications	<p>Applicants should be high school graduates in a college preparatory curriculum or students in a declared major field of study such as natural or physical sciences, human history, communications, natural resource interpretation, or recreation and resource management. Interns must be interested in and able</p>	<p>to meet and communicate with people of all ages and backgrounds. An interest or experience in interpretation, environmental education, or natural or cultural history is helpful, but not required.</p> <p>We are looking for applicants who have good people skills and a desire to share the significance of Zion National Park with others.</p>

Benefits	<p>In return for their services to the National Park Service, interns selected for the program will participate in training and orientation normally attended by the interpretive staff, and will receive rent-free housing, a stipend of \$125 per week, and a uniform. This program is sponsored by the Zion Natural History Association.</p> <p>Upon completion of the program, interns will also have gained the equivalent of a season’s experience working for the National Park Service, which could be of benefit when applying for a paid seasonal position in the future.</p>	<p>Housing consists of a room in a dorm or house, with shared bath and kitchen facilities. Interns will need to bring bedding and a small assortment of kitchen utensils as well as bath items. The number of room-mates varies depending upon the actual housing assignment. Pets are not permitted.</p>
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Area Information

Zion National Park is located in southwest Utah, where the Colorado Plateau, Great Basin, and Mojave Desert provinces meet. Ranging in elevation from 3,666 ft. to 8,726 ft., the park’s 229 square miles encompass a startlingly diverse population of plant and animal life. It is characterized by high plateaus, a maze of narrow, deep sandstone canyons, and striking rock towers and mesas. Zion Canyon is the largest and most visited canyon in the park. Here the North Fork of the Virgin River carves a spectacular gorge, with canyon walls rising 2,000 – 3,000 feet above the canyon floor. The park is in close proximity to Bryce Canyon and Grand Canyon National Parks, Cedar Breaks, Pipe Spring, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monuments, and Dixie National Forest, offering a wide range of recreational opportunities, as well as some of the most extraordinary canyon country scenery in the United States.

Considered one of the crown jewels of the national park system, Zion hosts over 2.5 million visitors from all over the world every year. The park is busy spring, summer, and fall. While spring and fall are mild, summer is hot, with daily temperatures over 100 degrees in July and August. Thunderstorms are common, with rain producing spectacular waterfalls off the canyon walls.

The park is a three hour drive north of Las Vegas, NV, and 4 1/2 hours south of Salt Lake City, UT. Park Headquarters and the housing areas are adjacent to the gateway community of Springdale (population 450) with groceries, gas, library, and clinic. Nearby cities are Hurricane (27 miles) and St George (45 miles, pop. 75,000) with full services. The nearest hospital is in St George. Personal transportation is suggested but not required. The park shuttle system extends through the town of Springdale.

Check the park website for more information, maps, and photographs: www.nps.gov/zion

How To Apply

Applicants should submit a detailed resume which lists education, work or volunteer experience, hobbies and other interests, and names and contact information for at least three references. If you are applying for an internship to meet graduation requirements, please include a college transcript. Material must include sufficient detail to allow a selection to be made from the application and a telephone interview.

Mail completed forms to:
Interpretive Internships
Zion National Park
Springdale, Utah 84767
Attention: Holly Baker

The application deadline for summer internships is March 1. For additional information contact Holly Baker: 435 772-7612, holly_baker@nps.gov.



Morning on the Pa’rus Trail with The Watchman in the background. Front: A hiker enjoys the view from Observation Point, 2,000 feet above the valley floor.